



# *Bicycle Access Council*

## News & Digest

[www.BicycleAccess-PA.org](http://www.BicycleAccess-PA.org)

January-February 2011

### ***Hello Members and Supporters of the Bicycle Access Council.***

It's a beautiful day in Pennsylvania!

#### **BICYCLE SAFETY LEGISLATION WAS RE-INTRODUCED...**

As HB 170 on January 24, 2011. This House Bill is the same legislation created by the Bicycle Access Council and first introduced in July 2008 as HB 2689. It was assigned a new number (HB 1110) in the 2009-10 legislative session, which just ended. State Representative Ron Miller (R-93) was the original sponsor. Rep Miller has assured BAC that the bill will be "fast-tracked" for passage--hopefully soon.

#### **PPAC REORGANIZATION WILL INCLUDE BAC...**

Under new proposed legislation. The Pedalcycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (PPAC) recently voted to reorganize the seats held by "members of the public" in an effort to update representation since it was first established in 1996. Bicycle Access Council executive director, Joe Stafford, was approved to represent a Pennsylvania statewide bicycle advocacy organization. Updated Bylaws were also adopted to take effect under the new format.

Because PPAC was created by a statute as part of the Vehicle Code (Title 75 § 3571), any changes must be made by legislative action. A new bill will be drafted reflecting those changes and is expected to be ready in a package of bills soon. Representative Rick Geist (R-79) from Altoona is expected to sponsor and introduce the bill.

#### **THE 9th ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA BICYCLE CLUB CONFERENCE...**

Is scheduled for March 26 in York, PA. Pennsylvania bicycle clubs received information and registration instructions early in January by USPS mail and e-mail. Although meant to benefit Pennsylvania bicycle clubs, any club from neighboring states, as well as individuals are welcome to attend. Contact BAC for details.

This year, several special guest speakers have accepted an invitation to attend. Dan McKay will give a dynamic presentation on bike club liability issues and "events" risk management.

PA state representative, Ron Miller, will address the group on the status and process of getting legislation passed in the General Assembly. Rep Miller is the sponsor of the bicycle safety legislation (HB 170) mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

PennDOT is expected to send a representative to update and explain policies and operations important to bicyclists.

As always, this is an event to showcase best practices among club leaders, whether new or experienced, which supports having a successful club. Thinking of starting a club? Want to improve your club? This is a How-To event to begin that process. Was your bike club missed from the notice? Contact BAC.

**THE LEAGUE OF AMERICAN BICYCLISTS...**

Announced the results of director elections. Pennsylvanian, Hans van Naerssen, currently board chairman, was re-elected to the board. Congratulations Hans!

Long time LAB member, volunteer, and current director Bill Hoffman from Lancaster, PA, withdrew from the recent election slate.

**WHAT ARE THE THREE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS...**

To remember for riding effectively on the roadway? 1) Lane position; 2) Lane position; 3) Lane position. Here's an interesting link to remind you why: [Why I often bike near the middle of the lane](#)

**BIKE COMMUTER FRINGE BENEFITS...**

Have been available since January 1, 2009. This is a federal tax free fringe benefit available for bicycle commuters. It allows up to \$20 per month for employees who "regularly" commute by bicycle to work (The IRS does not define regularly). It can be found in the IRC, under business fringe benefits, section 132(f), which is part of the section that allows fringe benefits for mass transit, car-pooling, etc. The tax year ending in 2010 marks the second year this has been in effect. BAC wants to know who, if any, Pennsylvania bicyclists are receiving this benefit.

**YEAR END TAX DONATION LETTERS...**

For IRS documentation were sent to all donors who contributed \$250 or more. Any BAC member or donor will receive a letter upon request for any amount of donation for which no other benefit was received. Annual \$20 memberships are eligible.

**Dates to Remember**

March 13      2.00 a.m., **Daylight Saving Time** begins (now the second Sunday in March)  
March 26      **9th Annual Pennsylvania Bike Club Conference**, York, PA  
March 31      **PPAC**, Harrisburg. Open to the public. Contact BAC for details.

**Mission Statement...**

The Bicycle Access Council is a non-profit advocacy organization that serves as a forum for Pennsylvania bicyclists and as an ombudsman for bicycling issues.

It is the objective of the Bicycle Access Council to make bicycling on roads throughout the Commonwealth safe, respectable and a transportation choice by educating its members and the motoring public.

All funding for the Bicycle Access Council comes from memberships and donations. Annual membership is \$20 per year. BAC does not share membership information.

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